

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 181344Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4816

UNCLAS NAIROBI 8567

FOR: CU/CP & CU/IR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC. KE

SUBJ: DIZZY GILLESPIE AND KENYAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY:
SUMMARY REPORT

REF: STATE 245970

1. FIRST GILLESPIE CONCERT - TWO HOURS LONG - HELD
PLENARY HALL, KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - CENTER,
MONDAY DECEMBER 10 BEFORE OVERFLOW CROWD, 4,000 STRONG.
INVITEES INCLUDED BROAD IMPORTANT REPRESENTATION FROM
ALL FIELDS: GOVERNMENT, UNIVERSITY, CREATIVE ARTS, OTHER
EMBASSIES, AS WELL AS US BUSINESS.

2. SECOND APPEARANCE, ALSO AT THE CENTER, ON WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 12 AS PART OF ANNIVERSARY BALL BEFORE EVEN
LARGER CROWD. SINGLE GILLESPIE PRESENTATION WAS ORIGINAL
TWENTY MINUTE COMPOSITION ENTITLED "BURNING SPEAR"
WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THE OCCASION AND DEDICATED
TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA.

3. AT CONCLUSION WEDNESDAY NIGHT APPEARANCE,
GILLESPIE ALSO PRESENTED COLLECTION OF AMERICAN
STAMPS AND AUTOGRAPHED COPIES OF SELECTIONS
HIS RECORDS TO THE PRESIDENT WHO PERSONALLY RECEIVED
THE GIFTS.

4. SINCE GOK DID NOT OR COULD NOT FINALIZE THIRD
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APPEARANCE (DECEMBER 13) -UNTIL AFTER QUARTRET'S
DECEMBER 10 ARRIVAL, REGRETFULLY GILLESPIE UNABLE

TO HONOR DUE TO PRIOR FIRMED DAR ES SALAAM COMMITMENT
SAME DAY/NIGHT.

5. MEDIA COVERAGE SPARSE AND NON-ENTHUSIASTIC.
THOUGH CROWDS LARGE, REACTION TO GILLESPIE MUSIC
ON PART OF MOST KENYANS PRESENT MILD AND POLITE IN
SHARP CONTRAST TO NON-KENYANS WHO WILDLY APPLAUDED
EACH PIECE. NOTE: RECEPTION BY KENYANS SUGGESTS
MODERN JAZZ MIGHT BE TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR MASS
KENYAN AUDIENCE.

6. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, GILLESPIE VISIT REASONABLY
SUCCESSFUL. FULLER REPORT FOLLOWS.
LINDSTROM

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